UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/61
23 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1136 (1997) CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1136 (1997) of 6 November 1997, in which the Council requested me to provide a report within three months on the implementation of the resolution, including recommendations on further international support for the Central African Republic after the mandate of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) expires on 6 February 1998.

2. Pursuant to the resolution, a United Nations multidisciplinary technical mission visited Bangui from 6 to 13 December 1997 to assess the political, military, security and economic and social situation and to begin formulating proposals pursuant to paragraph 8 of the resolution. As indicated in the second report of the Member States participating in MISAB (S/1998/3), the multidisciplinary mission, which was composed of representatives of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as well as of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who also represented the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, held extensive consultations in Bangui and collected the necessary information on the situation in the country. The observations of the mission have been incorporated into section II below.

3. On the basis of the submission of the assessments and recommendations of the mission, I decided to dispatch Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, as my Personal Envoy to meet the President of the Central African Republic, Mr. Ange-Félix Patassé, as well as the President of the Gabonese Republic, El Hadj Omar Bongo, in his capacity as Chairman of the international Mediation Committee. I asked Mr. Annabi to impress upon his interlocutors in the Central African Republic the need for full implementation of the Bangui Agreements and for major reforms in the political, economic and security arenas, and to assess what further international support could be provided to the Central African Republic after the withdrawal of MISAB. Mr. Annabi also travelled to Paris to meet with General Amadou Toumani Touré, former President of Mali and current Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee, as well as with senior French officials. Mr. Annabi left New York on 3 January 1998 and returned on 10 January.

II. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION

A. Political aspects

Role of the international community

4. In 1996, the Central African Republic was shaken by a politico-military crisis, punctuated by three successive mutinies of elements of the Central African Armed Forces, stemming to a large extent from widespread public discontent over social and economic problems exacerbated by prolonged non-payment of salary arrears. Deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation and its implications for the region, and in view of the request of President Patassé, the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa, held in Ougadougou from 4 to 6 December 1996, asked the Presidents of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali to visit Bangui to mediate a truce between the forces loyal to President Patassé and the rebels, which they succeeded in obtaining after intensive negotiations.

5. In accordance with the agreement of the Conference on Consensus-building and Dialogue, held in Bangui from 11 to 18 January 1997, and in response to a letter from President Patassé dated 27 January 1997, the Heads of State of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali decided to establish, from 31 January 1997, an inter-African force in the Central African Republic (MISAB). Its mandate, which was for an initial period of three months and was extended at the request of President Patassé, was aimed at restoring peace and security in the Central African Republic by monitoring the implementation of the Bangui Agreements (see paras. 6 and 7 below) and conducting operations to disarm the former rebels, the militia and all other unlawfully armed individuals.

6. On 25 January 1997, the parties signed the Bangui Agreements (S/1997/561, annex, appendices III-VI), which included the necessary elements for a comprehensive settlement of the crisis. An international committee, under the chairmanship of General Touré and composed of one representative of each of the four Heads of State concerned, was established to monitor the implementation of the Agreements, with logistical, technical and financial support provided by UNDP.

7. On 8 February 1997, MISAB was deployed in Bangui, comprising a total of some 800 troops from Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon and Mali; and later from Senegal and Togo, under the military command of Gabon and with the logistical and financial support of France. Its mandate (S/1997/561, annex, appendix I) was approved on 6 March 1997 by President Bongo, as senior representative of the Heads of State and Government delegated by the Ougadougou summit meeting of December 1996. The force was placed under the political authority of President Bongo and, on his behalf, General Touré, in his capacity as Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee. It should be noted that the Organization of African Unity has supported both MISAB and the International Monitoring Committee with special grants.

8. In the course of its operations, the force has suffered some casualties, in particular during confrontations in Bangui in March and June 1997. In view of widespread organized crime, MISAB, with the agreement of the Central African

parties, extended its activities to the maintenance of security in the capital, including its suburbs. On many occasions, it was called upon to perform humanitarian functions. Since the signing of the truce agreement on 28 June 1997 and the ceasefire agreement on 2 July, MISAB has participated in joint security patrols consisting of MISAB personnel, loyalists and former rebels in all areas of the city.

9. Following letters from Presidents Bongo and Patassé to the Security Council (S/1997/543 and S/1997/561 respectively) requesting that MISAB be placed under its authority, the Council, on 6 August 1997, adopted resolution 1125 (1997), in which it determined that the situation in the Central African Republic continued to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region. The Council also welcomed the efforts of the Member States participating in MISAB, approved the continued conduct of the operation of MISAB, and, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, authorized the Member States participating in MISAB and the States providing logistical support to ensure the security and freedom of movement of their personnel. Having considered the situation in the Central African Republic in November, the Council, in its resolution 1136 (1997) of 6 November 1997, expressing its appreciation for the neutral and impartial way in which MISAB had carried out its mandate, decided to extend its authorization for MISAB to operate under Chapter VII until 6 February 1998.

Implementation of the Bangui Agreements

10. All the parties to the Bangui Agreements concur that of the seven main provisions of the Agreements, the following three have been implemented:

(a) Establishment of the Government of National Union in February 1997, with participation of representatives of the major opposition parties and representatives associated with the former mutineers;

(b) Promulgation of the amnesty act on 15 March 1997, which deals with offences committed during the third mutiny (November 1996);

(c) Adoption of a law on 31 October 1997 providing pensions and other benefits to former Presidents of the Republic.

11. Since the ceasefire came into effect on 2 July 1997, a fourth provision of the Bangui Agreements, concerning disarmament (surrender of weapons by the former mutineers and recovery of weapons from militias and the civilian population), has been implemented almost fully with regard to heavy weapons. As regards light weapons, close to two thirds of them have been handed over to MISAB so far, as explained in the latest report of the Member States participating in MISAB (S/1998/3).

12. At the same time, the implementation of the remaining three main provisions of the Agreements is still outstanding. They include the recommendations of the General Meeting on National Defence (États généraux de la défense), especially those concerning the dissolution of the present special security services and the downsizing and restructuring of the Presidential Guard; the abandonment of the judicial enforcement of the parliamentary audit in respect of persons

presumed to have misappropriated funds under the previous regime; and the holding of a National Reconciliation Conference, currently scheduled for 10 to 14 February 1998, which should mark the completion of the implementation of the Bangui Agreements. In addition, the delicate issue of compensation to the victims of the rebellions still needs to be addressed. Furthermore, in the context of the legislative elections scheduled for August/September 1998 and the presidential elections planned to be held in late 1999, the recently drafted electoral code needs to be adopted and an independent electoral commission established.

13. As underlined in the MISAB report dated 5 January 1998 (S/1998/3), much hope is being placed in the National Reconciliation Conference. Among other things, the Conference is called upon to draw up a final act that could serve as the basis for the government to elaborate a national charter. However, the report clearly indicates that a lasting favourable climate should be created and certain fundamental conditions fulfilled in order for the Conference to be considered a success. To that end, the International Monitoring Committee and the Ministry of Human Rights, National Reconciliation and Democratic Culture, with the logistical, financial and technical support of UNDP, organized public awareness-raising campaigns in the country in November and December 1997. In-depth discussions have focused on the urgent need to achieve lasting peace and national reconciliation, conditions conducive to the economic recovery and sustainable development of the country.

B. Economic and social aspects

14. Possessing natural resources such as timber, cotton and diamonds, the Central African Republic has significant economic potential. However, the 1996 mutinies had a detrimental impact on the overall economic situation of the country, causing the gross national product to fall by approximately 3 per cent in 1996, and leading to a serious loss of confidence in the Central African economy. Within the private sector, 130 registered enterprises were active in 1995, but since then their number has dropped to about 20. While economic growth rates have gradually increased since 1996, the state of public finances has continued to be highly unsatisfactory.

15. While in 1996 public revenue amounted to 33 billion CFA francs (US$ 60 million) and is estimated at some CFAF 44 billion for 1997, public debt has reached an alarming level, totalling CFAF 152 billion ($276 million), of which CFAF 80 billion is owed externally and CFAF 72 billion is owed internally. As a result of the chronic budget deficit, the Government has been unable to pay the salaries of civil servants, provide basic social services and at the same time meet its external debt obligations.

16. The social situation in the country also continues to be a very serious concern. Some 20,000 state employees, 80 per cent of whom reside in Bangui, have not been paid in over six months. School grants and retirement benefits have not been disbursed for over one year. Schools have remained closed owing to teachers' strikes or lack of school equipment. Medicine and medical equipment are in short supply. Following the destruction of major factories during the mutinies, the unemployment rate has doubled in Bangui. Delinquency

in the capital is rampant. According to a study conducted by the Government and UNDP in 1996, 65 per cent of adults lived below the poverty threshold (annual income of less than $100 per year), and only 42 per cent of the population had access to potable water, while 75 per cent of children between the ages of 2 and 12 suffered from malnutrition.

17. Failure to fulfil its obligations to the Bretton Woods institutions has caught the Central African Republic in a vicious circle, in which direly needed assistance from those institutions has been suspended along with assistance from other donors who condition their support on the conclusion of agreements with the Bretton Woods institutions. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will dispatch missions to the Central African Republic in early February 1998; the Bank to review the country's economic and financial situation, discuss the 1998 budget and financing needs, and examine the scope and feasibility of external budget support; and the Fund to negotiate the modalities of a structural adjustment programme with the Government.

18. Unless stringent and rapid measures are taken towards the financial and economic recovery of the country, the harsh living conditions in Bangui are likely to breed further political and social tensions and unrest, with serious implications for the stability of the whole country. It is equally clear that the success of economic programmes depends on the maintenance of peace and stability in the Central African Republic.

C. Security aspects

19. While MISAB has succeeded in creating relative calm and a sense of security in Bangui, the overall security situation nonetheless remains a cause for serious concern. Banditry and armed robbery is a major problem in the interior of the country and in certain sectors of the capital. While the continuing disarmament exercise can be regarded as largely successful, significant quantities of light weapons remain in circulation in some areas of the country or could easily be acquired across its porous borders.

20. The national security apparatus of the Central African Republic has been severely weakened. The official strength of the Central African armed forces stands at 3,500, but its command structure has disintegrated as a result of the mutinies, and it lacks vehicles, communication equipment and other essential assets. Only the Presidential Guard, which has been reinforced, is currently operational. Its strength has reportedly reached several hundred well-equipped personnel. Many opposition parties are apprehensive of the role that force might play in case of political upheaval. The national Gendarmerie, with a strength of approximately 1,500 officers, has maintained a presence throughout the country, and its structure has remained generally intact. However, its extremely limited operational capacity seriously undermines its effectiveness in maintaining law and order. The police force, deployed throughout the country, stands at about 1,900 officers, but it also lacks the necessary resources and currently operates unarmed.

21. Pursuant to the Bangui Agreements, on 8 December 1997 President Patassé launched the process of restructuring the Central African armed forces, and a

special national commission has been established to address this important issue. As indicated by the President, the general guidelines for this process should be the creation of a national, republican and multi-ethnic army, which will also participate in the economic development of the country and whose size and activities would be in line with national budgetary capacity. For the peace process to succeed, this welcome initiative needs to be actively pursued. While the main responsibility for these far-reaching reforms belongs to the Government, international assistance would also be essential, and I hope that potential donors would lend their support to this important endeavour.

22. In the meantime, the regional security situation also remains precarious, as many countries bordering the Central African Republic have suffered from serious social and political instability. As a consequence, the Central African Republic has received thousands of refugees in recent years, and has a current caseload of some 45,000 persons from neighbouring countries and from the Great Lakes region. As the security of the Central African Republic and that of the other countries of the subregion is clearly interdependent, any sudden deterioration of the situation in the Central African Republic could have very serious regional consequences.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

23. Since the signing of the Bangui Agreements in January 1997, peace and security have been gradually restored to Bangui. While due credit has to be given to the people and Government of the Central African Republic for implementing several main provisions of the Bangui Agreements, this positive development is also largely due to the active mediating role played by African countries, in particular by members of the International Monitoring Committee and to the commendable role of the MISAB force, with the logistical and other support of France and UNDP.

24. The progress achieved so far in improving the overall situation of the country is undeniable, but it is far from irreversible. For national reconciliation to take root, and in order to restore lasting peace and stability in the country, it is essential that the outstanding provisions of the Bangui Agreements be implemented expeditiously. It is also essential that substantial reforms be undertaken to revitalize the country's economy and to improve the living conditions of the population. Regrettably, both elements have been elusive despite the efforts of the International Monitoring Committee and the encouragement of the international community. Bold and far-reaching measures have therefore to be taken without further delay to redress the current situation in the Central African Republic.

25. In his 1998 new year message to the nation, President Patassé stated that he believed that 1998 would be marked by national reconciliation, strengthening of democracy and economic revival. He indicated that the Government would put a revised electoral code before the Parliament and then announce the dates for municipal and parliamentary elections. He underlines that one of the main priorities for the coming year was to re-establish contact with the Bretton Woods institutions, with a view to reaching agreement on a structural adjustment programme.

26. In the course of extensive discussions held in Bangui by my Personal Envoy, President Patassé reiterated the determination of his Administration to pursue the above goals. This determination was confirmed in the letter that the President addressed to me on 8 January 1998, the full text of which is attached to the present report (see annex). The letter contains significant undertakings regarding the full implementation of the Bangui Agreements and important political and economic reforms. While some of the commitments made by President Patassé could have been even more specific, the letter can be considered a decisive step in the right direction.

27. In his letter, President Patassé also stated his belief that it would be essential for the United Nations to ensure that a credible peacekeeping force was maintained in the Central African Republic. That position is strongly supported by the International Monitoring Committee and the States of the region. In view of the ineffectiveness of the national security forces in the Central African Republic, MISAB has become an indispensable force for the maintenance of security and stability in Bangui and in the country in general. The withdrawal of MISAB, which is almost fully dependent on the logistical and financial support of France and relies on the availability of French operational back-up, would result in a situation that could destabilize the fragile peace process in the country, with serious consequences for the humanitarian situation and international peace and stability in the subregion.

28. Fully aware of the above, the Member States participating in MISAB are willing to continue to assist the Central African Republic in consolidating the peace. However, they would not have the capacity to do so alone, as France is preparing to withdraw all its troops, currently totalling more than 1,400, and consequently its logistical support for MISAB by mid-April 1998. The continuation of active international assistance to the Central African Republic would therefore be vital after the expiration of the MISAB mandate on 6 February. Such a presence would be important as a major preventive measure aimed at allowing stability to take root in the Central African Republic and thus avoiding any further upheaval in an already fragile subregion.

29. Since MISAB would not be able to maintain its presence in Bangui without adequate financial and logistical support, the only viable option for the maintenance of stability in the Central African Republic appears to be the establishment and deployment of another peacekeeping operation authorized by the international community.

30. Should the Security Council decide to consider the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, its structure and military role would be similar to that of MISAB. The primary purpose would be to maintain stability in Bangui so that the peace process could continue to move forward. Through its presence throughout the city and regular patrolling, a United Nations stabilization force would seek to maintain the security established by MISAB and to create an environment conducive to the holding of free and fair legislative elections scheduled to be held in August/September 1998. The mission would also assure the security of United Nations personnel and property. Furthermore, the mission would assist, through a modest programme, in building the capacity of the Central African police and Gendarmerie, in particular through the training of trainers, and could provide some technical advice and assistance in preparing

for the elections. The mission would be of a limited duration and should be completed two or three months after the legislative elections.

31. In addition to its military role, the United Nations mission would provide political guidance and support to other United Nations activities in the country. It would cooperate with other international partners with the objective of supporting all activities aimed at laying a foundation for lasting peace. The mission would facilitate the provision of technical assistance and support by the United Nations system for national reconciliation efforts and the rehabilitation and effective functioning of accountable and democratic institutions, including assistance and advice on constitutional and human rights issues. In addition, close collaboration with the UNDP, international financial institutions and bilateral donors is essential in promoting an integrated approach to post-conflict peace-building in the Central African Republic. The United Nations mission would also assist in mobilizing international assistance for the country. For this purpose, a special United Nations Trust Fund for the Central African Republic could be established.

32. Regarding the organizational structure of the mission, I would envisage the appointment of a Special Representative to head the mission, who would be supported by a small number of civilian officers. To ensure optimal coordination within the United Nations system, the United Nations Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative could serve as director of the office of my Special Representative. In view of the proposed tasks outlined in paragraph 30 above and the need to maintain an adequate level of logistical support to the United Nations force, approximately 1,400 troops would be required to fulfil the military tasks. The rapid establishment and success of the operation would be greatly facilitated if countries currently providing troops or logistical support to MISAB would consider continuing their participation under the auspices of the United Nations.

33. Obviously, the establishment of a new operation must be accompanied by the determined effort to implement the commitments listed in President Patassé's letter dated 8 January 1998. In the meantime, I recommend that the Security Council consider extending the present authorization provided for MISAB under its resolution 1136 (1997) for a short period, until 15 March 1998. At the same time, I would like to recommend that the Council express its readiness, in principle, to establish a United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Central African Republic, on the basis of a more detailed concept of operations that I intend to submit to the Council in early March in the light of the progress made by the Central African Republic in fulfilling the commitments expressed in the letter addressed to me by President Patassé.

34. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation, which is no doubt shared by the Security Council, to the International Monitoring Committee, the Member States participating in MISAB and UNDP and other United Nations programmes and agencies operating in the Cental African Republic as well as to all Member States concerned for their determined efforts to bring lasting peace, stability and national reconciliation to this conflict-torn country.

Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 8 January 1998 from the President of the Central African Republic addressed to the Secretary-General

As we begin a new year and on the eve of important events for my country, I should like to express my deep gratitude and that of the Central African people for the important assistance which the United Nations has provided in restoring peace to the Central African Republic after the crisis which our young democracy has experienced during the past two years.

The various missions you have sent to Bangui also bear witness to the interest of the United Nations in consolidating peace and stability in the Central African Republic.

The quality of the work done in the field each day by the United Nations system in general and by the office of the United Nations Development Programme in particular reflects a model of cooperation that has fully met the expectations of the Central African people.

As you know, the mediation of my brothers and counterparts in Gabon, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad and the efforts made by the Central African Government have led to considerable progress in restoring security and harmony.

By this patriotic undertaking - the Bangui Agreements - all the parties involved in the crisis have committed themselves to the noble task of restoring peace. It is on the implementation of these Agreements in accordance with the provisions of article 2 of the Preliminary Agreement on a National Reconciliation Pact (see appendix I) that the likelihood of a lasting national reconciliation, one that will unite Central African men and women in a vision of the future for our nation, depends. However, the gains made thus far must be consolidated.

Various events that have taken place during the restoration of peace have not yet resulted in the implementation of certain key provisions of the Agreements of 25 January 1997, despite the commendable efforts of the International Monitoring Committee under the leadership of President Amadou Toumani Touré, that worthy son of Africa who has managed to win the confidence of all the parties.

Several of the tasks included in the timetable agreed with the International Monitoring Committee have been completed (more than 84 per cent), to the satisfaction of all, as shown in the schematic table (see appendix II).

The task relating to the recommendations of the General Meeting on National Defence has been entrusted to a committee responsible for drawing up a plan for the restructuring of the Central African armed forces in their entirety as well as the National Gendarmerie and the Central African Police Force.

This committee, which is chaired by the Minister of Defence, has been placed under the supervision of the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee, General Amadou Toumani Touré.

I have asked the committee to submit the restructuring plan by the end of January 1998 so that it can be implemented as quickly as possible.

The Presidential Guard, the Survey, Research and Documentation Section and the National Research and Investigation Centre will all be affected by this vast restructuring, since most of the members of these bodies come from the Central African armed forces, the Gendarmerie, the Central African Police Force and the Republican Guard.

In the guidelines which I gave to the committee I also stressed the urgent need to build a pluri-ethnic national republican army capable of assisting in the national development effort, taking into account also the country's budgetary capacity. We want an army that will not only defend our territory but also participate in development and thus be productive.

The imminent launching of the demobilization project and the reintegration of the Central African armed forces will also serve to implement other major recommendations of the General Meeting on National Defence.

With regard to the abandonment of judicial enforcement of the report of the Parliamentary Investigation and Audit Commission, I had decided on 31 December 1996, as a gesture of appeasement, to suspend all judicial proceedings occasioned by the conclusions of the report. To date no proceedings have been instituted.

The Government brought a bill on the matter before the National Assembly in October 1997. In keeping with the principle of separation of the powers governing the State, the members of Parliament rejected the bill. We are actively seeking all possible ways out of this institutional impasse. However, I remain determined to stand by my decision of 31 December 1996.

As for the National Reconciliation Conference to be held in Bangui from 10 to 14 February 1998, preparatory meetings are currently taking place throughout the country to ensure the broadest possible participation of the population in the conference.

In addition, in view of the forthcoming elections (municipal, legislative and presidential), a national commission composed of representatives of all political groups and civil society has drafted a new electoral code.

This draft was reviewed by the Council of Ministers and is to be submitted to the National Assembly at its next session, to be held in March 1998. Once the electoral code is adopted and an independent joint electoral commission is established, it will be possible to draw up a timetable for the legislative and municipal elections scheduled for August or September 1998. Passage by the National Assembly of the bill establishing a high-level broadcasting council will make it easier for political parties to express themselves freely in the public and private media.

I hereby invite the United Nations and the international community to supervise the legislative and presidential elections when they are held.

However, these tasks do not constitute everything that was required under the Bangui Agreements, whose strategic thrust is aimed above all at transforming the socio-political system thoroughly and improving the living conditions of the population, as the only means of guaranteeing a genuine and lasting peace.

To this end I have instructed the Government of Action in Defence of Democracy to take immediate and vigorous measures to increase State revenues so that the country can honour its obligations, both internal (salaries, pensions, scholarships and the operation of basic social services) and external (chiefly in respect of the Bretton Woods institutions).

These immediate measures, which will be complemented by the adoption of a structural reform programme (rehabilitation and restructuring of financial systems, privatization of public enterprises in the energy, telecommunications and banking sectors, and control and operation of entities for the exploitation of natural resources), will create a climate conducive to the prompt resumption of negotiations with the Bretton Woods institutions with a view to concluding a structural adjustment agreement during the first quarter of 1998.

To ensure the implementation of all these measures aimed at consolidating peace, strengthening security and ensuring the country's economic and social recovery, the Central African Republic must continue to enjoy the active and committed support of the international community.

It is essential, then, that the United Nations ensure that a credible peacekeeping force is maintained in the country, at least until presidential elections are held, so that the measures set out above can be effectively implemented.

I am therefore asking you to approach the Security Council promptly to convince it that this request, which is supported by all groups in the country, is justified. The Government has in fact just established a trust fund for national security and peacekeeping.

(Signed) Ange-Félix PATASSÉ

Appendix I

[Original: French]

Article 2 of the Preliminary Agreement on a National Reconciliation Pact

Article 2

"We approve all the provisions of the conclusions stemming from the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, and we undertake to enforce them.

"Consequently, we call on the government authorities to approve them and put them into practice in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

Appendix II

An overview of the Bangui Agreements in table form

I. Political and institutional measures

Measure	Comments
1. Voting timetable, revision of the electoral code	In progress: A bill revising the electoral code has been prepared with the assistance of all political parties and civil society.
2. Formation of a Government of national unity	Completed: Formed in February 1997, the Government of Action in Defence of Democracy includes representatives of opposition political parties.
3. Granting of pension to former heads of State	Done: Act No. 97.012 of 31 October 1997 grants a pension and benefits to former Presidents of the Republic.
4. Suspension of the judicial enforcement of the parliamentary audit	Completed by the Government but rejected by the National Assembly. A study is being conducted to implement this recommendation.
5. Establishment of a high-level broadcasting council	In progress: A bill has been drafted by the Government and will be submitted to the National Assembly at its next regular session, in March 1998.
6. General amnesty	Done: The Amnesty Act pardoned violations relating to the rebellion and the misappropriation of public funds under investigation. See Act No. 97.002 of 15 March 1997.
7. (a) General Meeting on National Defence (b) General Meeting on Youth	In progress

Measure	Comments
8. Modification of the Code of Criminal Procedure	Under study
9. Procedures for appointment to the University of Bangui	In progress: The Government has begun work on a draft decree.
10. Streamlining of the Office of the President of the Republic	In progress: A draft decree on the organization and functioning of the Office of the President of the Republic has been prepared. The draft covers several offices in nine divisions.
11. Revision of certain articles of the Constitution	See constitutional procedure
12. Implementation of the Political Agreement Protocol and the Minimum Standards Programme	In progress
13. Respect for the Constitution, constitutional legality and the institutions, laws and regulations of the Republic Respect for democratic principles and human rights	Done: The Government has established the Ministry of Human Rights, National Reconciliation and Democratic Culture.

II. National reconciliation measures

Measure	Comments
14. (a) National reconciliation (b) Evaluation of the damage caused by the various crises (c) Compensation of the victims	In progress: Claims for compensation are being processed by the International Monitoring Committee and the Ministry of Human Rights, National Reconciliation and Democratic Culture.
15. Holding of a National Reconciliation Conference	In progress: Decree No. 97.223 of 8 October 1997 establishing the preparatory Committee for the National Reconciliation Conference.
16. Management based on the principles of good governance	In progress: A seminar on good governance is being prepared.
17. Reintegration of rebel soldiers in the Central African armed forces with honour	Done

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III. Social and security measures

Measure	Comments
18. (a) Conditions of security and confidence in schools (b) Payment of back salaries, scholarships and pensions (c) Revision of the 1996/97 school calendar	Done: End-of-year examinations were held without incident throughout the country; back salaries, scholarships and pensions are gradually being repaid.
19. Resumption of short-wave broadcasts by Radio-Centrafrique	Done
20. Negotiation of a social contract with trade unions	Ongoing dialogue
21. (a) Immediate cessation of the rebellious action (b) Regrouping of dissident forces scattered throughout the country (c) Participation of the Central African armed forces and the Groupement opérationnel du maintien de l'ordre in field operations of the French forces	Done: The Government of Action in Defence of Democracy includes representatives of the rebel soldiers; there are also representatives of the rebels in the military hierarchy.
22. Return of weapons with assistance from MISAB	In progress: According to published statistics, this operation has been a success: 92 per cent of heavy weapons and 55 per cent of light weapons have been returned.

Measure	Comments
23. (a) Appeal to the country's development partners for renewed assistance (b) Appeal to African heads of State involved in mediation to set up a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the outcome of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue	Done: Unanimous adoption of Security Council resolutions 1125 (1997) and 1136 (1997); Resumption of dialogue with the Bretton Woods institutions.
24. Title of the Preliminary Agreement on a National Reconciliation Pact	Done: Also known as the Bangui Agreements
25. Status of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue	Permanent

Notes: 1. Of 25 recommendations, 13 have been implemented (52 per cent), 8 are being implemented (32 per cent) and 4 have yet to be implemented (16 per cent). In all, 84 per cent of all recommendations have been implemented.

2. Of the 8 recommendations that precede the holding of the National Reconciliation Conference, 7 have been implemented (87 per cent) and 1 is under study. A committee of experts is to be established to consider organizational problems.